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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	1. Inoculation of Soviet Border Guard Personnel 2. Soviet Activity Along the Northwest Iranian Border	DATE DISTR.	5 June 1957
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observations of Soviet activity along the northwestern Iranian border. In addition to accounts of routine border activity, the following items are included in the reports:

- Beginning on 20 January 1957, Soviet border guard officials, komendatura personnel, and militia (sic) received obligatory inoculations at a health office in Astara.
- In late January, a change in officer personnel of an unidentified unit of the 44th Border Guard Otryad was observed.
- Lt. Col. Markulov, a newly appointed border commander, made an inspection of unidentified units in the company of Lt. Col. Andreyev.
- Soviet air activity appeared to increase during the month of January 1957.

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For the Soviet soldiers of the 44th

1/20/2022/

According to confirmed information and the daily observations in the area of Astaratchai, there were obligatory occupations given to the Soviet frontier officials, Kommandatura personnel, and even the Militia. Since the 20th of January these persons come to the Hygienic office and stand there in lines and go in for one hour, when they come out. Officers and soldiers of other stations are brought in on two-hours driven carts or trucks and go to the Hygienic; police amongst these persons, there are also civilians seen.

#### Visits of frontier officers:

Though there were heavy snowfalls in the areas of Namin and Astaratchai, the Soviet officers are regularly in their frontier stations and make regular inspections on their frontier. These officers while departing from their stations come on horseback, on skis or in trucks. Sometimes there were several officers together for such inspections, and their number reached even 5 persons. They carry telescopes. On the 28th of January in the Laji area, 3 officers came for inspection and wore black eye-glasses. There has been observed another thing during these inspections: A change amongst the frontier officers has taken place in the No. 1 Lankaran frontier station, 44th Border Guard Detachment. The former officers show the area to the new officers.

#### Lt. Col. MERKULOV's inspection:

Though Lt. Col. MERKULOV has been appointed for the 1st Kommandatura station, Periship, he has not been seen, yet, between the area of Bileroot and Meqan. And even if there are some frontier accidents, for which he ought to come along with the Lankaran Frontier Officer, he does not appear, and in his place, Col. ANDREYEV comes instead.

According to information, about one week ago, Lt. Col. ANDREYEV came for inspection of the frontier pillars Nos. 105 to 110 belonging to the No. 4 Sub-Commission. Lt. Col. MERKULOV came in company of 3 other officers, wearing fur hats, for inspecting the frontier and the pillars.

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Arrival of new motorcycles:

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recently small and big motorcycles have been given to the Soviet frontier guards. They are driven by Soviet officers and sergeants. These motorcycles, however, are only used in the Kommandaturas and 2nd Gr. Frontier stations. There have not been given any by now to the frontier stations of the Namin and Moqan area. They are only seen in the station of Kalvas, Qaltchimahale and the other places of the Bilesavar area. The speed of those motorcycles is good and their color is black.

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2 February 1957

Observations made in the Soviet stations on 31 January, 1 February  
and 2 February:

On 31 January, 14 Soviet infantrymen with picks and other tools walked from Garabeg station to Malaserd station. They returned at 2 p.m. to the station.

Aerial Soviet activities during this month have increased. Soviet planes, type Polikarov, sometimes cross over the Iranian border-line. Because of the snow, the food of the station officials is brought on horse-back. And the two-horse carts cannot drive in this area because of the bad roads.

On 31 January and 1 February, 3 Soviet officers on skis drove from Laji station toward Kelaputi station at 9:30 a.m. Two carts loaded with white bags, 5 soldiers and 1 pig came from Kelaputi station to Laji station. Further observations could not be made for the snow and storms. The Soviet guards were only patrolling in the morning at 8 a.m. and at 4 p.m. No one is in the secret observatories at night.

On 31 January and 1 February, 6 Soviets were working on the barbed wires and the KSP line (plowed strip). This group had been working in the East part of Kerpipost station (No. 13 station). Stairs were also built in the patrol-road leading to the mountain. At night 10 shots of bullets have been heard.

On 2 February, Soviet officers arrived to the Alashah station coming from Astara. They talked for half an hour to the station's chief and then proceeded to Galitche-Mahale. There they visited the dam made by the Soviets and situated opposite to Yadi-ular.

On 2 February at 4:10 a.m. **SECRET** colored rockets were fired in the

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] . At various hours of the night, the Soviet projectors  
lightened over the river and the villages near by. On 2 February  
[redacted] lieutenant and 2 Soviet soldiers came from Astara to the iron  
battery located up of Rudkenar. They surveyed Iran by a telescope  
5 minutes. This officer returned afterwards.

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[redacted]  
On 1 and 2 February at various hours of the night from 2100 hours  
until 0300 hours, the Soviet projectors have five times lightened over  
the Iranian border and the Gomrek station. For about one month the  
projectors had not lightened over Iranian places. On 2 February at  
2100 hours 2 Soviet ZIS trucks with a group of 30 people, men, women  
and soldiers moved from Astara toward Rudkenar.

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February 1957

Observations of Soviet frontier station on 1, 3 and 4 February:

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On 1 February at 1130 hours a Soviet plane flew in a 5 kms. distance over the border. This plane flew toward the Issa Bayfi forests and then turned toward the Sea. The plane was white and flew at 1,000 meters altitude. In the afternoon, 15 Soviet soldiers, divided into 3 groups, came near the border and claimed the highway. A two-horse cart brought 3 water tanks from the No. 8 station toward Arestikergue. At various hours of the night three red rockets were thrown in the air.

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On 1 February at 1200 hours 4 Soviet soldiers wearing white overcoats with 3 loaded horses and a woman sitting on one of the horses, came from the No. 9 station toward No. 10 station (Laji). The same day, a cart with 7 soldiers moved toward Asselassar station. Further observations could not be made because of the snow and storm.

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On 1 and 3 February at 1400 hours some Soviets were cutting wood near the bottom of the mountains of Shaludarre. Capt. IVANOV, Chief of No. 11 station, controlled them. At 2400 hours one grenade was thrown. On 2 February at 0800 hours an ambulance came from Astara to the No. 11 station (Zardalon). In the afternoon, 10 soldiers and one sergeant assembled in the station and their officer read for them some newspaper. The ambulance returned to Astara at 1200 hours. On 1 February, 3 pigs going toward Varid, were returned by the soldiers to the station. There were only patrols' movements to be observed, for the rest.

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On 4 February 2 trucks loaded with 40 persons, men, women and children arrived in the station. The women started to plough the lands lying 400 meters away of the station. This group returned to Rudkenar at 1430 hours.

On 3 February 1 Soviet officer, 2 soldiers and 2 fishermen went fishing in the west part of the station. They caught 3 fishes after half an hour. Since 3 evenings rockets are thrown in the air at various hours. At 1600 hours a black jeep with a number of officers came from Astara, visited the dam being built near Yadee-Ular, and returned.

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